

HORIZONS: A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF

SUMMER 2026

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

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Connection

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“The career outcomes rate for the Class of 2025 is 95% - one of the highest we have ever had at DelVal.”



▲ L-R: Dr. Broc Sandelin, Dr. Tanya Casas, Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Dr. Gloria Oikelome, Dr. Joseph Paris

Dear DelVal Community,

We celebrated one of the largest graduating classes from DelVal on Saturday, May 16, under beautiful blue skies. Over 500 students received an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree.

This year we graduate the third cohorts of our clinical graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Physician Assistant Studies, as we welcome new students this fall to start their journey at DelVal.

We celebrate the successes of all Class of 2026 graduates. At least 12 students have been accepted to veterinary school for fall 2026 at universities that include Tufts, Rowan, Auburn, Long Island, Missouri, Kansas State, Purdue and Pennsylvania.

Many 2026 graduates are continuing in master's degree programs at DelVal, and others are attending graduate school at Villanova, Rutgers, Oklahoma State, Hunter, Salisbury, and New York Law School. Others are starting jobs that include management at TD Bank, Delaware Regional Planning Commission, the town of Charlestown and a boutique goat cheese farm in New Jersey. 100% of 2026 graduates of our Turf Management and Food Science programs received job offers before Commencement.

Overall, the career outcomes rate for the Class of 2025 is 95% - one of the highest we have ever had at DelVal. It is clear that experience elevates success for our students.

The success of our students and graduates is due to our unique Experience360 program. In this issue of Horizons magazine, we explore the ways that our Experience360 program is embedded in the curriculum across the University, regardless of major. Your generous support enables us to continue providing the hands-on opportunities that allow our students to enter the workforce with the confidence and experience they need to succeed.

Best Regards,

**Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D.
President**

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E360: THE CURRICULUM CONNECTION

The Experience360 Program is uniquely interwoven into every major at DelVal, giving students real-world experiences from day one. From labs to forests, take a closer look at some of the experiential learning that happens every day on our campus!



▲ Reg Hoyt, Vanessa Conley '27, Brian Pepe '27 and Jennifer Cartwright '26 on South Campus

SA-3034 MAMMALOGY

Program: Conservation and Wildlife Management

Instructor: Reg Hoyt

THE PROJECT:

The mammalogy course's small mammal trapping project gives students hands-on experience with a widely used method for estimating wildlife populations. Although primarily part of the conservation and wildlife management major, the course also attracts students from related programs, such as zoo science, who are eager to gain practical field experience.

THE PREP:

Over the course of several weeks, students work to trap and estimate the population of white-footed mice in a wooded area on DelVal's South Campus. The project begins with careful, strategic preparation. Four trap lines, each consisting of 40 H.B. Sherman Live Traps, are set up in locations marked year after year with pink and orange flags. Students are instructed to place the traps within six feet of each marker, but are

encouraged to think critically about animal behavior when choosing the exact spot.

"We're looking for strategic spots a mouse is likely to travel," said **Vanessa Conley '27**. "That might be near a water source, along a tree base or tucked into brush."

Each trap is baited with seeds or peanuts, using both small and large trap sizes to account for variation in the animals. Once set, the project runs on a rotating schedule. Students sign up for three-day shifts, working in small groups responsible for both evening and morning fieldwork.

In the evenings, students venture into the woods to open the traps and replenish the bait. The traps then remain open overnight, increasing the likelihood of temporarily catching a mouse. This is required every evening as the traps are closed during the day for the safety of the non-targeted species. The following morning, the



▲ *Vanessa Conley '27 (L) and Jennifer Cartwright '26 (R) marking a white-footed mouse*

same group returns to check and close each trap, recording data for any animals captured.

Students carry all their supplies in bright orange and red bags to ensure visibility in the wooded environment. They also bring thick gloves to wear when handling the animals.

MEASUREMENT:

When a trap contains an animal, students carefully assess several characteristics, including species, sex, reproductive status, age, location of capture, trap size and bait. While the focus is white-footed mice, other small mammals occasionally appear, offering additional learning opportunities.

Students then use an animal-safe blue marker to apply a small identifying mark allowing them to track recaptures as well. Tracking recaptures is a key component in estimating population size and contributing to the overall dataset.

IN THE REAL WORD:

Most entry-level roles in conservation and wildlife management are technician positions working alongside biologists or wildlife managers to collect field data. This project mirrors the real-world responsibilities graduates will have upon entering this field.

“The world is not just lions and tigers and bears,” said Hoyt. “There’s so much out there down to the tiny mouse in the woods.”

This year’s white-footed mouse population was found to be a bit larger than last year’s. While year-to-year population size is not significant, long-term trends in mammal population may indicate environmental changes that may be of concern to wildlife and potentially humans as well.

“The world is not just lions and tigers and bears. There’s so much out there down to the tiny mouse in the woods.”

-Reg Hoyt





▲ Emily Bellfi '27 (L) and Lydia Kilinski '28 (R) noting the results of their cross breeding

THE PROJECT:

In the plant breeding course, students gain hands-on experience that brings genetic theory to life through a semester-long project using Wisconsin Fast Plants. The course, typically taken by juniors and seniors, but also open to underclassmen, allows the students to explore different genetic principles and practice varied breeding methods through four distinct breeding populations. Students can tailor their project to their interests by focusing on different genetic traits and practicing different breeding methods.

THE PREP:

Students begin by planting their initial populations in trays on a light rack in the state-of-the-art Arthur Poley Greenhouses, where controlled conditions support the plants' rapid growth. As the plants develop, students work individually or in pairs to consider their breeding goals and select both the breeding methodologies they intend to utilize and the traits for which they'd like to breed. Before spring break, they conduct their first breeding crosses, then harvest the seeds from these crosses and replant for the next generation. The use of Wisconsin Fast Plants, developed for academic

settings with an accelerated reproductive cycle, enables the students to complete two full generations within the semester.

THE ACTION:

Partners Lydia Kilinski '28 and Emily Bellfi '27 explored combining traits using the confetti method. Per this method, students select two traits to attempt to combine. In the first cross, they selected two parents, each with the traits and crossed them. Kilinski and O'Boyle opted to combine purple stems and increased height. They also experimented with the polycot trait to breed for more cotyledons. Cotyledons are the first leaves that come out when the seed germinates, and the polycot trait is due to quantitative genetics. They developed a breeding program to breed for more cotyledons by selecting and crossing the plants with the most cotyledons.

Following spring break, students analyzed the outcomes of their crosses, comparing observed results with expected genetic ratios. They then used these findings to predict how traits might express in a subsequent generation.

"This project gives students practical experience with the exact skills they need to work with any major produce or agriculture company."

-Dr. Adrienne Kleintop

PS-3202 PLANT BREEDING

Program: Plant Science

Instructor: Dr. Adrienne Kleintop

IN THE REAL WORLD:

The process followed in this project reinforces key concepts such as inheritance patterns, selection techniques and data interpretation, while also encouraging critical thinking and adaptability. The skills students develop in this project are relevant to careers as plant breeders, seed technologists, crop consultants, quality control analysts and product developers.

"This project gives students practical experience with the exact skills they need to work with any major produce or agriculture company," said Dr. Adrienne Kleintop.

"Students from this course are well prepared for roles in biotechnology, greenhouse management and product development within the agriculture industry."



▲ Dr. Adrienne Kleintop teaching in the Feldstein Horticulture Science Center

MC-2140-202 PUBLICATION DESIGN

Program: Media and Communication

Instructor: Doug McCambridge

THE PROJECT:

This course's final project of the semester gives students hands-on experience working with a real client from a local business. Students are tasked with updating or redesigning the business's website, combining design skills they've developed over their previous years at DelVal. This project prepares students with the design, strategy and communication skills they will need upon graduation.

THE PREP:

Just like any freelancer or business, the students must first secure a client. They begin by vetting the website of various businesses to find one that may benefit from their work. They analyze the sites for design, functionality and user experience. They also must take into consideration where the business is located, as they will meet with their client periodically throughout the project and the client will be invited to a presentation at the end of the project. Once the students have identified a potential client, they must reach out and pitch the project, offering it as a mutually beneficial partnership. The student gains hands-on experience in branded website design and the client receives a freshly updated website.

THE ACTION:

Once the students have secured their client, they schedule an initial meeting to discuss the company's brand, what their website looks like currently, and what changes they would like made to the site. Then, the students get to work incorporating the design skills they've developed from this course and



▲ Dante Campana '27 (L) and Assistant Professor Doug McCambridge (R)

previous courses, such as Graphic Design I. With the businesses being local, the students also have the opportunity to go on-site to take new photos and videos, a skill they've also developed through the media and communication program, which will be included in the website update.

Throughout the project, the students periodically meet with their client to share progress updates and get feedback on the design. The students primarily design the websites via Wix, but have the option to use WordPress or another hosting site if that is what works best for them and their client.

Dante Campana '27 worked with a BBQ restaurant specializing in dinners and event catering. Campana took note of how their distinct brand elements differentiated the business from most others, but the information was outdated and inconvenient to navigate. Utilizing Wix, Campana rebuilt the company's website with priority given to structure and navigation while still being sure to incorporate the pink, black and white colors and the casual and fun font of the company's brand.

"This was my first time designing a website and I feel this was a great segue between coursework and real-life work applications," said Campana. "My graphic design experience was pushed to create yet another type of media that people could engage with."

IN THE REAL WORLD:

This project not only encompasses nearly every skill the students have honed over their academic careers, but also introduces a very real and, at times, challenging aspect of professional work: communicating with clients. Up until this point, nearly every project has given students creative freedom to make it what they want. Now, they are creating content based on someone else's brand and preferences. They must be communicative, patient and respectful of the clients' wishes, even if they don't agree with the creative direction.

"This project is all about getting students out there and being comfortable working with a client, which is something they've never done before," said Doug McCambridge.

CH-3223 ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY II

Program: Chemistry

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Langston



▲ Alex Obando '26 in a campus chemistry lab



▲ The Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer used in Obando's project

THE PROJECT:

By the time students take Analytical Chemistry II, they have already taken several other chemistry courses and have learned various forms of chemistry experimentation. They know how to prepare samples, collect data and interpret their findings to reach conclusions. Now, they step into the role of a lead chemist and design their own experiment around their own curiosities.

THE PREP:

Every decision is up to the student in this project. It begins with selecting a substance which they will test and analyze for a specific component or content. This semester, students chose to test the following:

- ▶ *Levels of residual chemicals, pesticides and grass treatments in golf course water*
- ▶ *Antioxidant activity in vitamins, supplements and coffee*
- ▶ *Metformin hydrochloride concentration in diabetic medications*
- ▶ *Iron-oxidizing bacteria levels in water runoff from a local farm*

Once the students select their topic, they collect their own samples to test. For some students, this means a quick trip to the grocery store. For others, it means climbing into a kayak and riding down Neshaminy Creek.

MEASUREMENT:

After collecting their samples, the students begin chemical analysis. The students decide what experimentation method or technique to employ, taking into consideration the state of matter, amount, size, reactivity and known behavior of their selected chemical substance.

After choosing their method, the students begin the experiment by creating standards using a known amount of the substance the student is testing for. These standards provide the baseline of the experiment by which the students compare their real results to.

For example, **Alex Obando's '26** first round of experimentation tested the zinc levels in water from a golf course. Zinc is a common ingredient in pesticides and other chemicals used to treat the grass on golf courses. Before testing his collected samples, Obando

created three standards by diluting three different amounts of zinc with deionized water. He then used an atomic absorption spectrophotometer to test the levels of zinc in each.

The atomic absorption spectrophotometer atomizes the sample into a flame and then uses a lamp to shine a beam through the flame. The instrument is then able to detect atoms of zinc and the absorbance of those zinc atoms is recorded. Repeating this process with his collected samples, Obando then compared the absorbance values from the samples to those from the zinc standards to determine the specific concentration levels of zinc in his samples. Obando also analyzed his samples for other elements including lead and copper. His results showed measurable concentrations at the parts-per-million level of both copper and zinc. Lead was not detected.

IN THE REAL WORLD:

Graduates in chemistry, biology and environmental science need analytical techniques to create, test and properly label products. These skills are applicable across a multitude of careers and industries, including quality control and assurance, research and development, environmental analysis and much more.

“One of the biggest advantages of DelVal is the hands-on experience these students receive with the instrumentation,” said Dr. Melissa Langston. “Other schools don’t give these opportunities until the graduate level. Our undergraduates are leaving here not only knowing how to do it, but also having done it themselves.”

▼ L-R: Zowey Zimmerman '28, Bruck Ohler '26, Kate Maurer '26, Tyler Parsons '28, Mountain Anderson '27, Brynn Fisher '28, Zoie Jones '29, Thomas O'Neill '29, Raymond McAleer '26, Luke Reichard '27



AB-3115-3117 NATIONAL AGRI-MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Program: Agribusiness

Instructor: Amanda Rees

THE PROJECT:

Open to students in any major, the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) course provides students with the opportunity to develop an agriculture industry-related product and create a go-to-market strategy. Each spring, the students compete against other colleges and universities at the NAMA Agri-Marketing Conference, where they pitch their product and strategy to a panel of judges. Due to the size and nature of the project, this course runs each semester and works in conjunction with the NAMA club on campus. Students can also use the course to satisfy one of their Experience360 requirements.

THE PREP:

This project technically begins anew at the end of the spring semester, immediately following the NAMA conference. In the final weeks of the semester, the students vote on the club executives, and research and ideate the product for the next year.

For this year's project, the students decided to develop a sunscreen lotion that is made from beef tallow. If resources allow, students will then develop a prototype of their product.

THE ACTION:

Over the course of the fall and spring semester, the students research and develop a go-to-market pitch for the product. The pitch must include a four-to-six-page executive summary of the product, a 12-month marketing plan, financial evaluation and justification for a three-year time period, realistic market situation and objectives, realistic profit/benefit-oriented goals, and plans for measuring pre-existing conditions and evaluating results. Each student takes responsibility for a specific section of the pitch. This year, students worked under the direction of the club president, **Bruck Ohler '26**.

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, the course also integrates public speaking drills, visits from industry professionals for feedback and tips, and several rehearsals to practice with their final pitch deck, all leading up to the NAMA Conference in April. At the conference, the group competes against other colleges and universities such as Texas A&M, Penn State, Purdue and Alabama State. Each group's pitch is evaluated on delivery, pitch design, the group's

professionalism and ability to answer the judges' questions, and the overall quality of the plan itself.

IN THE REAL WORLD:

The wide scope of this project provides students with an array of interests the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in their prospective field. Students with an interest in finance, research and development, marketing, agribusiness, quality control and assurance and several other aspects of general business will find applicability in their careers of the skills they develop through this project.

"I would say that this felt like a true capstone course, bringing together everything I've learned here at DelVal," said **Raymond McAleer '26**. "I want to go into business operations and being able to walk into a room and say 'this is the issue we have, this is the plan and this is how we're going to implement it' is something that NAMA has really helped me to be comfortable with."

Growing at DelVal

The DelVal experience goes beyond the classroom, enhanced by immersive, hands-on learning that prepares students for real-world success.

► LeaderShape

LeaderShape was introduced to me by one of my first mentors on campus, Andrew Moyer, Ed.D. '22, as a way to gain leadership skills and grow as a student and individual. My first year taught me how leadership starts from within, which is not what I had expected going into it. I thought it was going to be a weekend of lectures, but what I found was open discussions and interactive activities to individualize personal leadership skills and learn how to utilize them with others.

This year, I had the opportunity to return to LeaderShape as an on-site coordinator. I was happy to be a part of the unseen magic that puts together an amazing time for the new participants. I was able to learn more about myself and strengthen what began after my participation the previous year.

A big takeaway from being in a leader position was learning that I teach and lead by doing, which encourages many to be open to trying whatever new thing may be at hand. What also stuck out to me was how many diverse personalities were a part of this year's group. That can

be difficult to navigate; however, by the end, we all felt so close to each other and were able to share the meaningful connections made. I give immense credit to the creators of LeaderShape, who are always reshaping the curriculum and are able to produce such a meaningful experience in a short amount of time. It is truly brilliant. -Jack Bisignano '27

DelVal thanks Lead Sponsor NJM Insurance Group and Major Sponsor Univest Financial for their continued support in helping DelVal students attend LeaderShape each year.

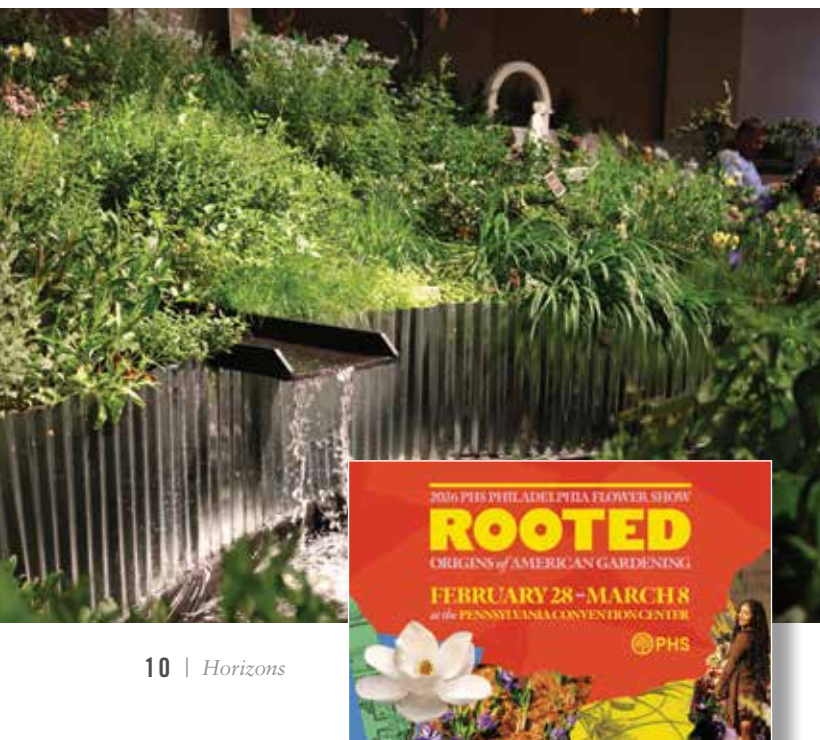


◀ Philadelphia Flower Show

DelVal returned this past winter to the Philadelphia Flower Show presented by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). In alignment with this year's theme, Rooted: Origins of American Gardening, DelVal students created a display that reflected an important piece of the history of all living things.

Titled "The Language of Life", the display honored Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist who is referred to as the father of modern taxonomy. Linnaeus created and organized the taxonomic structure to be used as a universal language for naming living things. The student-designed and -built exhibit showed Linnaeus' classifications in a clear-to-chaotic representation of the intricacy and diversity of living things, and featured a trickling stream, flowering shrubs and notes of mint and lavender to engage every sense of passersby. Students spent months preparing for the event, getting involved through the Flower Show Design/Build course, for E360 credit or simply out of love for the creative project.

DelVal was awarded a silver medal in the educational exhibit category by PHS, as well as the Philadelphia Unit of The Herb Society of America, Inc. Award.





◀ Pennsylvania Farm Show

Charley Lengel Kramer '27, shown at left with Dr. Broc Sandelin, dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, won a \$7,500 scholarship at the PA Farm Show in January.

Ag Ambassadors represented the University in livestock shows and at the University booth. The Pennsylvania Farm Show brings together industry professionals from across the state offering students an opportunity to network and connect with Pennsylvania's top producers, supporters, alumni and key figures.

▶ 2026 Student Keystone Media Awards

DelVal's Full360, a student-run media team, won the Pennsylvania News Media Association's Student Keystone Media Sweepstakes for the second year in a row.

SEVERAL STUDENTS EARNED FIRST PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- ▶ Sports Photo – Travis Loewe '28
- ▶ Website – Nina Weiland '26, Owen Klessel '27, Charlie Roller '26, Aubrey Ennis '26, Hannah Hoffman '26
- ▶ Video Story – Owen Klessel '27
- ▶ Podcast – Nina Weiland '26, Rebecca Worthington '26, Hailey Cylinder '26, Jake DiBlasio '26, Aubrey Ennis '26, Andrew Snowden '26, Rich Bagala '26
- ▶ Best Newscast (Broadcast) – Owen Klessel '27, Charlie Roller '26, Jake DiBlasio '26, Lauren Caruvana '26, Nina Weiland '26, Hannah Citron '26
- ▶ Best Public Service (Broadcast) – Owen Klessel '27, Charlie Roller '26, Ryan Rawls '26, Sailor Anderson '26, Christian Ley '26, Dante Campana '27

STUDENTS ALSO RECEIVED HONORABLE MENTIONS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- ▶ Feature Story – Charlie Roller '26, Owen Klessel '27
- ▶ Review – Sailor Anderson '26, Aubrey Ennis '26, Owen Klessel '27, Charlie Roller '26, Ryan Rawl '26, Travis Loewe '28
- ▶ Cartoon/Graphic Illustration – Andrew Snowden '26

▶ L-R: Charlie Roller '26, Larry Holeva (The Times-Tribune Scranton), Owen Klessel '27



▲ Back Row (L-R): Jake DiBlasio '26, Sailor Anderson '26, Travis Loewe '28, Andrew Snowden '26, Rich Bagala '26, Doug McCambridge (DelVal assistant professor). Front Row (L-R): Lauren Caruvana '26, Dante Campana '27, Nina Weiland '26, Owen Klessel '27

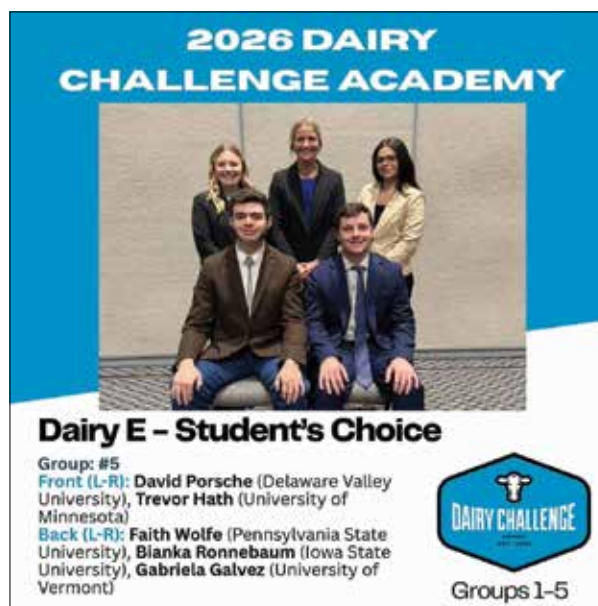


ACCOLADES



◀ International Book on Experiential Learning

Andrew Moyer, Ed.D. '22, dean of Student Support, and Laura Craig, director of Student Professional Development, were invited to contribute a chapter to "High Impact & Experiential Learning as Enhancing Quality on Campus." The book examines the role of experiential learning in strengthening student outcomes across higher education.



▲ Jacob VanDoren '27, Caitlyn VanDeusen '27 and Nellie Hankinson '27 at the Green & Gold Dairy Spectacular

◀ 25th Annual Green & Gold Spectacular Dairy Sale

DelVal's Dairy Society hosted their 25th annual Green & Gold Spectacular Dairy Sale on Saturday, March 28. Students Nellie Hankinson '27, Caitlyn VanDeusen '27 and Jacob VanDoren '27 led the sale as chairpersons, coordinating every aspect from initial planning to execution of the event. This year's sale featured 86 lots and resulted in a record-breaking \$283,500 in gross sales.

▶ 2026 National Dairy Challenge

David Porsche '28 earned first place at the 2026 National Dairy Challenge. The Dairy Challenge brought together 281 students from 43 colleges and universities to give students an opportunity to apply the skills they've learned in the classroom to the dairy industry. The students were broken into groups to compete in conducting a comprehensive farm analysis, and Porsche and his group took first place in the Dairy E, Boadwine Farms category.

▶ Tournament of Champions Hall of Fame

Hunt Seat Coach Ciara Tjong '13 became the first human inductee into the Tournament of Champions Hall of Fame during the 35th anniversary year of the Tournament. The Tournament of Champions is a prestigious, invitation-only competition series held multiple times a year across the country.



▲ L-R: Emily Miller; DelVal equestrian team head coach, Cory Kieschnick, DelVal chair of the Department of Equine Science and Management; Ciara Tjong, DelVal hunt seat coach; Gwen Arrigon, founder of the Tournament of Champions; Jim Arrigon, founder of the Tournament of Champions

Historic Seasons, Bright Futures

Delaware Valley University student-athletes celebrated a year filled with standout performances, historic milestones and championship success. Across multiple programs, the Aggies continued to build momentum while making their mark on the conference and national stage.

Delaware Valley University had the honor of hosting the inaugural MAC Women's Wrestling Championship in February.

"The inaugural MAC Championships was an exciting day to be a part of," said Head Coach Mike Lammer. "It felt like a full-circle moment with DelVal being the first school in the MAC to sponsor a women's wrestling team. It felt right to host."

The Aggies welcomed Alvernia, Arcadia, Eastern, Misericordia and York as the conference celebrated a milestone event for the growing sport. While York College claimed the team championship, DelVal's **Eva Herrera '27** made history by capturing the inaugural title in the 131-pound weight class.

"Winning the MAC was amazing and felt even better being a part of a growing movement in women's wrestling," Herrera said. "I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to compete on our home campus with my friends, teammates and family there to support me. It wouldn't have been possible without all the amazing people who played a part every step of the way, which made the moment even more special."

▼ *Eva Herrera '27 the moment she won the 2026 Women's Wrestling MAC Championship*



"Winning the MAC was amazing and felt even better being a part of a growing movement in women's wrestling."

-Eva Herrera '27



▲ Jack Brennen '27 competing at the 2026 MAC Freedom Golf Championship



▲ DelVal softball seniors on Senior Day, the class of 2026 (L-R: Amelia Funston, Kathleen McGeoy, Morgan Mecham, Madison Donnelly, Jillian Ulozas, Tori Bockrath, Kenzie Boyd, Angelina Bresnen)

Two Aggie programs that won just three games each a season ago enjoyed major turnarounds in 2026. Women's basketball posted 10 wins, including five conference victories, under second-year head coach and DelVal Hall of Famer **Lauren Stackhouse '02**. A key piece of the resurgence was **Whitney Evans '29**, who was named MAC Freedom Rookie of the Year and earned First Team All-MAC Freedom honors. Evans led both the Aggies and the conference in scoring during the regular season at 17.2 points per game while recording 23 double-digit performances, including eight 20-point games. Her season-high 26 points helped fuel a comeback victory over Lebanon Valley in the season finale.

Softball delivered one of the most successful seasons in program history, finishing 29-9 and breaking the school record for wins under DelVal alumna and head coach **Jamie Stefani '19, MBA '21**. The Aggies also set program records with 375 hits and 59 doubles while tying the 1983 record with 19 triples. **Angelina Bresnen '26** broke the single-season program records for home runs and RBIs while tying the school mark for runs scored. Fellow senior **Madison Donnelly '26** set career records in at-bats and hits, while **Madison Karns '27** increased her career win total to 39, the most in program history. First-year standout **Tessa Fredericks '29** earned MAC Freedom Co-Rookie of the Year honors, and **Morgan Mecham '26** led the conference with a 1.36 ERA and 81 strikeouts.

"The success of our season this year is a true reflection of our team's dedication, time and relentless effort," Stefani said. "Watching their growth, resilience and commitment to one another has been truly special."



▲ 2026 Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society induction class (L-R: Jack Bisignano '27, Emily Drake '27, Ciana Feliciano '26, Nathan Fisher '27, Caleb Johnson '26, Liam Martin '26, Kellyn Meadows '27, Elizabeth Oresto '27, Payton Witman '27). Chi Alpha Sigma is an honor society that recognizes student athletes who have demonstrated excellent athletic and academic capabilities. In order to be inducted, students must participate in a varsity level sport and maintain a 3.4 GPA or higher.

Baseball also enjoyed a dramatic improvement under first-year head coach Jimmy Gulden, finishing 16-22-1 after winning just three games in 2025. The Aggies earned conference series victories over King's, Lebanon Valley and FDU-Florham while producing several standout individual performances. **Gavin Migliori '26** followed up an All-MAC football season in the fall by earning First Team All-MAC Freedom honors in baseball after leading the conference with a .702 slugging percentage and ranking second with 11 home runs. He also batted .383 while finishing among the conference leaders in stolen bases, OPS and runs scored. **Ben Boyer '27** and **Liam Martin '26** earned Second Team All-MAC recognition, while **Nathan Fisher '27** and **Braedyn Kormanik '28** were honorable mention selections.

Under Head Coach Dylan Bennett, the Delaware Valley track and field program continues to reach new heights. The Aggies turned in an impressive performance at the ECAC Championships, with the women's team finishing second overall with 95 points and the men's squad placing

fourth with 84 points against 12-team fields. At the MAC Outdoor Championships, **Victor Cruz '26** led the way with silver-medal finishes in both the 200m and 400m, while also setting a new program record in the 400m with a time of 47.53. First-year standout **Javius Dent '29** also earned a podium finish, placing third in the discus.

The 2026 season saw numerous program records rewritten across both teams. Cruz added another record in the men's 200m (21.41), while **Alyson Bingaman '29** and **Lennix Horsburgh '28** tied the women's pole vault mark at 3.20m. **Emma East '27** broke school records in the women's 400m and 1000m, and **Evan Brown '29** set a new shot put standard at 15.31m. The Aggies also established new records in the women's 4x800m relay, women's distance medley relay and men's 4x200m relay, highlighting the depth and growth of the program across multiple events.



▲ Victor Cruz '26 sprinting at the 2026 MAC Outdoor Championships

On the turf this spring, women's lacrosse's **Charley Lengle Kramer '27** was named to the All-MAC Freedom Second Team, tallying 25 goals, four assists and 29 points. Men's lacrosse's **Kieran Schneider '26** graduated second all-time in program history with 140 points and set a program record with 104 career goals.



▲ Hunt Seat team after placing ninth at the IHSA National Horse Show



▲ L-R: Taylor Adams, equine coordinator and assistant, Mackenzie Snyder '26, Dr. Angelo Telatin, associate professor

Snyder Crowned National Champion

Delaware Valley University dressage senior Mackenzie Snyder '26 captured a national championship in Upper Training at the IDA National Championship in Lake St. Louis, Missouri, becoming DelVal's 13th national champion in school history. Snyder's victory marked the University's first individual national champion since Emily Wilmot '18 won an IHSA national title in 2018 and the first outside of the Aggies' nationally recognized wrestling programs in recent years.

"Winning nationals was such a surreal feeling," Snyder said. "I originally didn't think I would

qualify, so just qualifying by one point already felt like a huge win. When I saw I was in first, I thought they probably hadn't updated all the scores yet. Then the girls I was with looked at me and said, 'No, Kenzie – you just won your level!'"

Snyder recalled celebrating the emotional moment with coaches, teammates and family.

"We were all so ecstatic," she said. "It's truly a memory of a lifetime that I'm so beyond grateful for."

Follow your favorite Aggies teams by visiting athletics.delval.edu for up-to-date schedules, photo galleries, stories and links to live stats and live videos for each game. You can also stay informed by following [@dвуaggies](https://twitter.com/dvuaggies) on social media!

A New Era for DelVal Football

by Andrew Schultz '28, 2026 Spring MVP

As a returning starter on the offensive line, I take a lot of pride in what we have going on here at DelVal. I have been part of this program long enough to know what the standard is, and we are working every day to build it back to where it belongs.

A big part of that is the new coaching staff. Head Coach Bill Zwaan, Jr., a former West Chester quarterback, brings 15 years of coaching experience and a profound understanding of the game. Offensive Coordinator Osagie Osunde, a former West Chester running back, has 14 years of coaching experience and is pushing the tempo and ensuring we play with physicality on every snap. Defensive Coordinator Brandon Noble, a former NFL defensive tackle with 10 years of coaching experience, has our defensive guys competing fast and aggressive.

We have several all-conference players returning. **Mike Galasso '27**, who threw for over 3,000 yards last season, leads our offense. **Justin Brown '27**, our running back, had more than 1,000 scrimmage yards and is a problem for defenses. **Joel Perez '29**, an All-American returner with over 400 return yards, is stepping in as a wide receiver and ready to make plays.

On defense, linebacker **Thomas Arcaroli '27**, an All-Region player, recorded 13 tackles for loss and five sacks, while defensive back **Jovan Tyrell '28**, who is only a junior, had 14 pass breakups and three interceptions.

Our mindset is simple: take back the MAC. We're focused on getting back to being an undefeated team and bringing that title back home. I truly believe we have the potential to be something special. We already have all the right pieces; we just need to bring them together in the right way.



Schultz joined the marketing communications department at DelVal as an intern as part of his E360 experience, where he quickly became a valued member of the team. He consistently brought a strong work ethic, curiosity and a willingness to learn that made him an asset on a wide range of projects. His contributions added real value to our work, and he will be missed as he moves forward in his academic and professional journey.





From DeVal to Down Under

by Dr. Brian Lutz, Chair, Department of English, Associate Professor

This spring, Place Studies students, taught by Dr. Michael Stamps, went as far as anyone in green and gold has gone with the University. Down Under. And then over to Middle Earth. Somewhere between the tightly manicured lawns of the Shire in New Zealand, the sulfurous thermal pools of Rotorua, the peaked Opera House in Sydney, and the boat ride out to the Great Barrier Reef, our students learned the cardinal

rule of the wanderer: travel insists on education. Even the willfully detached escapist can't help but compare—wonder if the difference between here and there indicates something better or just something different; in other words, they learn. Travel forces such focus. New things demand curiosity and introspection. A good trip, like a good class, is mindwork. It excites and agitates and leaves the students craving more.

Kiona Williams E360: Place Studies Trip – Poland

Kiona Williams '26 traveled to Poland in what began as an academic opportunity but quickly turned into a deeply human experience that reshaped how she understands history, culture and her place in the world.

As part of a study-abroad course connected to criminology, the trip took students through Warsaw and Krakow, immersing them in centuries of history. From castles and salt mines to restaurants and historic factories, each day offered a new layer of learning.

Among the most impactful sites for Williams were Auschwitz, Schindler's Factory and castles tied to World War II and the Holocaust.

"I've read about Auschwitz since I was 12 years old," she said, "but just going there, the actual impact of walking around it, is indescribable."

A psychology major with a minor in criminal justice, Williams said her coursework prepared her to engage with what she encountered

abroad. The experience served as the foundation for her final paper, which focused on the rise of fascism and its biological and psychological impacts.

"Learning about fascism and trauma beforehand helped me know what to look for when analyzing the culture that exists today," said Williams. "You start analyzing not just history, but how people talk about it and the psychology behind it."

As a veteran who was previously stationed in South Korea, Williams already had an interest in working internationally. Poland solidified that path.

"I know I want to work with diverse populations," she said. "Public policy, environmental policy, human rights - that's what I want to do."

Williams highly recommends studying abroad to any student who is able. For her, Poland was not just a trip; it was an experience that deepened her understanding of the world and her role within it.



Day of Scholarship & Founders' Day

On April 23, 2026, DelVal hosted a full day of events centered on “The World of AI: Unlocking Potential, Understanding Impact”, beginning with breakfast and a plenary panel discussion. Attendees participated in breakout sessions, followed by opportunities to engage with student research presentations across multiple disciplines, including counseling psychology, ag biotech and museum studies. The day concluded with the Founders' Ceremony and reception, celebrating the accomplishments of students, faculty and staff.



▲ Panelists included: Jason Jaffe, director of Technology and Innovation, Central Bucks School District; Richard Hartwell, Ed.D. '20, CIO & VP, Institutional Assessment, Neumann University, lecturer, the University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy, U-Data Analytics and Applied Machine Learning; Matthew Hoffman, assistant professor of Business; Owen Klessel '27, conservation and wildlife major; Charlie Roller '26, English major; Raul Casas, principal engineer, Cisco; Chris Clement, CISSP associate director, Information Security, Longwood Gardens



▲ Charlie Roller '26 received the Champion of Diversity and Inclusion award for outstanding efforts to promote diversity and inclusion on our campus.



▲ Hannah Citron '26 received the Founders' Award, the University's top honor, presented to a senior who has demonstrated outstanding leadership ability and involvement with the campus and the community.



▲ Jacob Wysocki '26 received the Presidential Scholar Award, presented to the senior with the highest GPA in the graduating class.

▼ Psychology Department Spring Speaker Series – Mar. 18

The psychology department welcomed Janet Sasson Edgette, Psy.D., M.P.H. as the keynote speaker for the latest segment of its Spring Speaker Series “It Takes A Community.” Edgette was joined by panelists Heather Hopkins, Ed.D., executive director of Student Services in Centennial School District, Kim Porter, CFRS, co-founder and executive director of Be a Part of the Conversation, Neil Broxterman, Ed.D., assistant director of Student Services at North Penn School District, and Allison A. Buskirk-Cohen, Ph.D., director of the Honors Program and psychology professor at DelVal. The panel discussed teen stress, school and the transition into adulthood, with the goal of bringing together parents and guardians, educators, mental health professionals and resource organizations to support young people during their critical transition from high school to adulthood.



▲ L-R: Dr. Janet Sasson Edgette, Kim Porter, CFRS, Dr. Allison A. Buskirk-Cohen, Dr. Heather Hopkins, Dr. Neil Broxterman and Dr. Matthew Mutchler



▲ Michael Brunelli '28 (L) and Matthew Riddick '20 (R) at the Watson Executive-in-Residence



▲ BAS Colloquium “The Economy” – Mar. 18

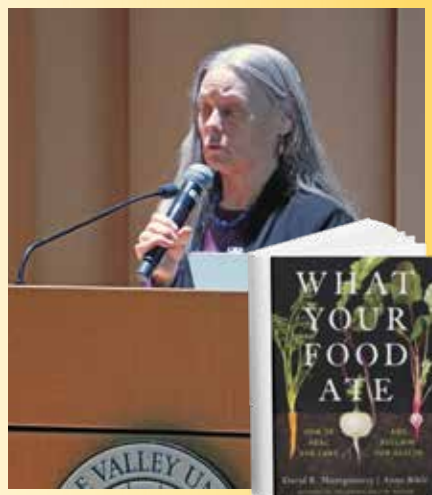
The *Question It! Change It!* Colloquium Series by the School of Business, Arts and Sciences (BAS) continued with a segment titled “The Economy” that focused on how economic choices shape the world. The conversation was led by hosts Christine Seel, DelVal assistant professor and chair of the Department of Business and Information Technology, Matthew Hoffman, DelVal assistant professor of the Department of Business Administration, and Linward Robinson '05, DelVal faculty member and program director for animal center management at Harcum College.

◀ Watson Executive-in-Residence – Mar. 25

The School of Business, Arts and Sciences welcomed Matthew Riddick '20, founder and president of The Riddick Foundation, as this spring's Watson Executive-in-Residence (WEIR) on Wednesday, March 25. This semester's WEIR scholarship recipient, Michael Brunelli '28, introduced Riddick, who then went on to present on the power of taking ownership of your career journey and staying adaptable in an ever-changing business landscape.

► Bucks County Foodshed Alliance – Apr. 9

The Bucks County Foodshed Alliance and DelVal's One Health chapter welcomed renowned biologist and author Anne Biklè to campus on Thursday, April 9 for "What Your Food Ate & Why It Matters." Biklè presented and led a discussion exploring how soil health and animal diets directly affect human health, drawing from her book "What Your Food Ate: How to Heal Our Land and Reclaim Our Health." Biklè was joined by panelists Dr. Debbie Bernstein, Tom Murtha of Blooming Glen Farm, and Sean Ryan of Tussock Sedge Farm.



◀ Relay for Life – Apr. 10

Relay For Life, held by DelVal's student chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, took place on Friday, April 10. The club raised \$9,350 throughout the year and nearly \$600 during the event itself for the American Cancer Society to help fund research and patient assistance, surpassing last year's total by over \$2,000. 10 teams participated in the event including the President's Cabinet and DVU Volleyball.



▲ Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski with students at Relay for Life



▲ Concert Series – May 1

DelVal's music department held its Spring Showcase on Friday, May 1. The showcase featured the department's instrumental and choral ensembles.

"I am proud and deeply appreciative of the musicians of all our ensembles, students and community members alike. They all met the musical challenges I presented them this year and performed with such heart and dedication. The DelVal music department is a collection of both talented and dedicated musicians, and I am happy to be serving them as the Music Director," said Dr. Britney Alcine.

◀ Temple Grandin – Apr. 29

DelVal and Future Horizons hosted Temple Grandin on Wednesday, April 29 in the Life Sciences Building auditorium. Grandin presented on her book "The Grandin Papers," which features over 50 years of research on animal behavior and welfare that changed the livestock industry. Her presentation highlighted similarities in information processing between animals and people with autism, her hopes for the future of animal breeding and changes she would like to see made to the education curriculum for future farmers, veterinarians and agriculture industry workers.



From April 24-26, 2026, Delaware Valley University welcomed alumni, students, families and community members for the 76th annual A-Day celebration. The weekend included interactive student exhibits, livestock displays, live performances and activities for all ages, highlighting the spirit of campus life and the University's deep agricultural heritage.





A-DAY OF GIVING 2026: More than \$88,000 raised

Thanks to the incredible support of the Delaware Valley University community, A-Day of Giving on April 23, 2026 made a meaningful impact for students across campus. More than \$88,000 was raised through the generosity of 334 donors, helping strengthen programs and opportunities in academics, scholarships, athletics and beyond.

We are grateful to our alumni, family members, friends, faculty, staff and students for coming together in support of DelVal students. Your generosity helps create hands-on learning experiences, expand opportunities and empower students as they prepare for their futures.

Every contribution plays an important role in advancing student success and shaping the next generation of Aggies.

A-DAY — of — GIVING

April 23, 2026

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EVENTS
Indoor + Outdoor Garden Weddings
and Celebrations for up to 162 Guests



▲ Student speaker Tracey L. O'Neill,
M.S. Counseling Psychology



▲ L-R: Gloria A. Oikelome, Ph.D., Ed.D., provost & vice president of Academic Affairs; Jackie Ricotta, Ph.D., named Professor Emeritus of Plant Science at ceremony; Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D., President



▲ Student speaker Malik Smith,
B.S. Media and Communication



▲ Student speaker Caleb Noah
Messenger, B.S. Animal Science



▲ Student speaker Katia Elizabeth Holmes,
B.S. Business Administration

Commencement 2026

Delaware Valley University marked the Class of 2026 Commencement on Saturday, May 16, with sunny skies and a crisp spring breeze setting the scene for a memorable celebration. Throughout the ceremony, four student speakers shared personal reflections, words of gratitude, and hopes for the future. Surrounded by proud family members and friends, graduates crossed the stage to enthusiastic applause, closing one chapter and stepping confidently into the next.



Scholarship Reception

The annual Scholarship Reception was held on March 26, 2026, at Terrain Gardens at DelVal. The event brought together current students and valued scholarship donors for an evening of conversation and connection. Students had the opportunity to share their academic and personal experiences, while donors heard firsthand about the impact of their generosity. The reception fostered meaningful relationships and highlighted the important role scholarships play in supporting student success.



▲ Dorothy Prisco (L) and Kamella Getcher '27 (R)



▲ L-R: MarQuel Fitzgerald '28, Alexis Wright '26, Grants Manager Christa Stebbing, Ciana Feliciano '26, Affinity Philanthropy Officer Kevin Ladden



▲ L-R: Elizabeth Higgins '26 and Ameer Awawda '26 with Anne Craven and Gretchen Hearths of Tamanend Park Herb & Garden Club



Scholarship Reception Student Speakers



▲ L-R: Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ash Hussain '26, Andrew Szalus '26, Nia Kirby '28, Rose Cruz-Duran '28

Ash Hussain '26

Agribusiness

Ash Hussain truly made the most of their years at DelVal. Hussain was a Rambassador, a tutor, an intern at the cannabis lab, a greenhouse worker, president of the Apiary Society and worked at the University's Kids U! summer camp. Hussain aspires to own a farm producing Asian and Caribbean specialty crops because, as a first-generation American, they find those are the hardest to get. After graduation, Hussain will complete an internship in Thailand, then be an apiary inspector for PA and attend graduate school for food science. Hussain credits DelVal and generous scholarships for helping make their dreams come true. The Follett Scholarship and The Raymond J. Samulis Endowed Scholarship allowed Hussain to focus on academics without the financial stress that often comes from needing to pay your own way through college. They cannot imagine getting through college without the support of donors and thanks them for their continued support of so many DelVal students, including Hussain.

Andrew Szalus '26

Conservation and Wildlife Management

Andrew Szalus came to DelVal because of the hands-on experience opportunities available to students and certainly made the most of those opportunities. He was president of Student Programming Board, president of the Student Government Association, a member of Drama Club, a resident assistant and a student worker in the Student Life and Student Involvement Offices. As a conservation and wildlife management graduate, Szalus plans to work in the conservation field either for the National Park Service or as a conservationist in a zoo. He is incredibly grateful for the support the Dr. and Mrs. Peter Glick Jr. Liberal Arts Scholarship gave to him as it allowed him to get involved, make the most of his college experience and give back to the University. The scholarship allowed him to focus on his goals for after graduation, and he credits this scholarship and others for empowering countless other students like him to go on to make the world a better place.

Nia Kirby '28

Animal Science, Pre-Professional

Nia Kirby just completed her second year at DelVal and is eager to continue her hard work in the years to come. She aspires to be a mixed-track veterinarian who will own her own clinic and/or animal shelter that focuses on rehabilitation to give animals a second chance at life. Her leadership qualities and skills are demonstrated through her club involvement as the founder and president of Cultivating Resilience and Opportunity for Women in Nature (C.R.O.W.N.), the club council representative for Animal Lifeline, the academic standards representative for the Student Government Association and a Rambassador. Being the only child of a single mother, Kirby knew scholarships would be of utmost importance in allowing her to reach her goals. She related receiving scholarships to winning the lottery and is incredibly grateful for the generous Lonnie Jordan Memorial and W.W. Smith scholarships that have supported her journey and removed some of the financial barriers to allow her to pursue her goals.

Rose Cruz-Duran '28

Biology, Zoology

Rose Cruz-Duran is a future marine biologist entering her third year at DelVal. In addition to exploring the ocean and discovering new species, Cruz-Duran feels a calling to make sure everyone around her feels included which inspired her to create Latinos Unidos, a new club to unite Latino students across campus. She expressed the importance of unity and how scholarships like the Thomas C. and Susan B. Leamer Endowed Scholarship and The William H. Hardesty, M.D. Endowed Scholarship she was awarded can create a more unified community. Thanks to these scholarships, Cruz-Duran no longer needs to work four jobs to support her education, allowing her more time to focus on her academics, her family and bringing more unity to DelVal's campus. She is incredibly grateful to her donors for believing in her and supporting her in reaching her fullest personal and professional potential.

Scholarships provide more than financial relief for our students. They allow our students to have more peace of mind, time to focus on academics, family, friends and clubs, and to make the most of their college experience.

If you would like to create a scholarship to support our students, reach out to our advancement team to discuss how you can make the greatest impact.
advancement@delval.edu | 215.489.2397



▲ L-R: DelVal Alum and Perdue Senior Director of Grain Origination Brian Palmer '96, DelVal Alum and Perdue Assistant Hatchery Manager Caylin Stevens '20, Perdue Farms Vice President, Chief Animal Officer and Farmer Relationship Advocate Mike Levengood, DelVal President Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, DelVal Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Dr. Broc Sandelin

Perdue Farms Gifts DelVal \$100K Towards New Poultry Science Center

“As the poultry industry continues to grow, so does the demand for well-trained professionals. The new Poultry Science Center will provide ample hands-on learning opportunities to students and support the addition of a new Poultry Science academic program at DelVal.”

-Dr. Broc Sandelin, dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

Delaware Valley University has received a \$100,000 gift from Maryland-based Perdue Farms and its charitable giving partner the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation to support the construction of a new Poultry Science Center on its main campus. The Perdue gift reflects the company's commitment to foster the next generation in agriculture and aligns with its Delivering Hope To Our Neighbors® outreach to improve quality of life and build strong communities. In recognition of Perdue's continued support of the project, a study room in the new Center will be named after Perdue Farms.

Representatives from Perdue delivered the grant earlier this year to President Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski and Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Dr. Broc Sandelin. The Perdue Foundation also provided \$25,000 in funding support for the project in October 2023.

“As the poultry industry continues to grow, so does the demand for well-trained professionals. The new Poultry Science Center will provide ample hands-on learning

opportunities to students and support the addition of a new Poultry Science academic program at DelVal,” said Dr. Sandelin. “We are grateful to our industry partners who have stepped forward to address workforce gaps by supporting the development of a dedicated Poultry Science Center. Their investment directly strengthens our ability to prepare students for the careers employers need filled.”

“At Perdue, we believe that investing in education and workforce development is essential to the future of agriculture,” said Mike Levengood, vice president, chief animal care officer and farmer relationship advocate at Perdue Farms. “Supporting the Poultry Science Center at Delaware Valley University strengthens hands-on learning opportunities, helps prepare students for meaningful careers in the poultry industry, and ensures that the next generation of agricultural leaders has the knowledge and experience they need to innovate and drive our industry forward.”



Sanatoga Grange #25 Endows Scholarship at DelVal

The Sanatoga Grange #25 of Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania has created an endowed scholarship for current Delaware Valley University students in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

The scholarship was made possible by a generous donation by Sanatoga Grange #25 under the leadership of Master of the Grange, Thomas Troutman, and his daughter, Donna Humski. The two visited DelVal last year and appreciated the critical education provided to students in agriculture and animal husbandry.

The scholarship, based on a \$40,000 endowment, will provide financial support each year for a current DelVal student who is pursuing an

undergraduate degree in agribusiness, animal science, crop science, dairy science, equine management, equine science, small animal science, horticulture or sustainable agriculture systems. Preference is given to a student from Montgomery or Bucks counties, Pennsylvania, with a 3.0 minimum GPA.

The Grange is an organization of individuals who work together to support farmers and rural communities across the country. They engage in community service, facilitate member activities, and actively engage with local, state and federal officials to lobby on behalf of farmers in their communities.

MARLENE DE LA CRUZ RETURNS TO DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marlene De la Cruz was elected once again to the DelVal Board of Trustees. De la Cruz previously served on the Board from 2016 to 2020, but her history with DelVal spans over a decade beginning in 2015 when she served as the Watson



Executive-in-Residence. She was a member of the Business School Advisory Council from 2015 to 2016. During her previous term on the Board of Trustees, De la Cruz served on the Committee on Trusteeship and chaired the Enrollment and Marketing Committee. Most recently, she served on the President's Advisory Council in 2023.

"Delaware Valley University holds a special place in my heart," said De la Cruz. "DelVal's emphasis on experiential learning, its commitment to preparing students for meaningful, impactful careers and its dedication to developing future leaders continues to inspire me. I am grateful for the opportunity to once again work alongside fellow trustees, administrators, faculty, students and staff to advance DelVal's mission."

An accomplished business leader and executive coach, De la Cruz has more than two decades of experience in global leadership, organizational growth and talent development. She is also a committed community member and nonprofit leader, having served on the boards of Marketing Research Institute International, the Bucks County Autism Support Coalition and Autism Cares Foundation, and currently serves as vice chair of the Board of Trustees at Nazareth Academy High School.



▲ L-R: DelVal Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Dr. Broc Sandelin, Secretary of the Sanatoga Grange Carolyn Nippert, Master of the Sanatoga Grange Thomas Troutman, DelVal Affinity Philanthropy Officer Kevin Ladden.

Walter and Alma Uebersax Endowed Lectureship in Food Systems



Delaware Valley University held the inaugural *Walter and Alma Uebersax Endowed Lectureship in Food Systems*, which was presented by Christopher Urban on April 1, 2026. This lectureship series is sponsored by **Mark A. '70** and Kristen (Kit) L. Uebersax. Christopher Urban visited DelVal as the first speaker of the newly endowed lectureship series in food systems.

Prior to the lecture, Kevin Ladden, a member of DelVal's Office of Advancement, introduced the Uebersaxes' story behind the establishment of the lecture series. "Mark and Kit have made a significant investment in DelVal students with the creation of this lecture series," said Ladden. "Their vision to bring together industry and governmental leaders, faculty, staff and students to discuss food science, dairy and other agricultural disciplines is a prime example of philanthropic leadership, and DelVal could not be more grateful for their support."

The Walter and Alma Uebersax Endowed Lectureship in Food Systems was established within the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at DelVal in memory of Mark's parents, Walter E. and H. Alma Uebersax, for their sacrificial commitment to higher education of their four sons, including Dan M. Uebersax, DelVal class of '78.

The intent of this \$100,000 endowment is to enable engagement of outstanding leaders with university faculty and students, and to serve as a sustaining vehicle for enabling substantial interactions that benefit student development and knowledge transfer. This is envisioned to be a premiere endowed program that enables the invitation of selected lecturer-scholars to visit campus for a one- or two-day period. It is designed for leaders to share experiences and insights from their areas of expertise. It is hoped that these interactions lead to student career development and extended collaborations with faculty.

"This lecture series in food systems will benefit students across many majors on campus, including agribusiness, horticulture, crop science, animal science, dairy science, and food science and technology," shared Dr. Broc Sandelin, dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. "It aligns with our mission to bring the most current thinking in these fields to our students."

Mark A. Uebersax is a DelVal graduate (1970, Food Industry; recipient of DelVal Alumni Achievement Award, 1986) with graduate degrees from Michigan State University (M.S., 1972 & Ph.D., 1977). Among the many professors he had throughout his academic career, DelVal's Dr. George E. Turner, department chair and professor, and John C. Barnes, assistant professor, were profoundly influential in Dr. Uebersax's long-term career direction. Both played a significant role through classroom instruction and in providing vision and strategy for his graduate studies.

Dr. Uebersax is professor emeritus and former chairperson in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, as well as the transition director of the School of Packaging at Michigan State University (MSU). He conducted

his research in fruit and vegetable processing, postharvest handling and storage systems, and chemical and physical quality assessment of fresh and processed food. He has established a national and international reputation for global aspects of processing quality and utilization of dry beans. His scholarly achievements have included refereed publications and abstracts, books and chapters, and research reports. His teaching and graduate student mentoring have been formally recognized. He was named an Institute of Food Technologists Fellow and received the Institute's Babcock-Hart Award for International Nutrition and the William V. Cruess Award for Excellence in Teaching. MSU achievement awards include The Distinguished Faculty Award, Teacher-Scholar Award and Outstanding Academic Advisor Award.

Kristen L. Uebersax has been a lifelong team partner in all these activities and fully understands DelVal's mission to develop students within the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences to establish careers within many fields, including food science and food systems. She herself has been engaged in food science (B.S., Hood College, 1968, and M.S., University of Vermont, 1972) and wholeheartedly supports the objectives of *The Walter and Alma Uebersax Endowed Lectureship in Food Systems*.

Mark and Kit have been married for more than 50 years and raised their daughter, Kate, on a small Michigan farm. They have resided for 49 years in the original 1892 farmhouse and enjoy working outdoors caring for numerous gardens and landscaping projects. Further, fishing and camping in Northern Michigan have been rewarding. They remain active with their local church in the rural community of Perry, Michigan.



CHRISTOPHER URBAN DELIVERS INAUGURAL LECTURESHIP IN FOOD SYSTEMS

Christopher Urban, senior vice president of Growth Platforms and Partnerships at Dairy Management, Inc., was the inaugural speaker for the Lectureship. His presentation was entitled: *"Unlocking Growth – Innovating in Health & Wellness to Position Dairy to Win in the Future."*

He was introduced by agribusiness major Malcom Ellis '26. Urban discussed alternatives to fluid milk in the dairy industry, highlighting consumer and industry trends that have led to new product development and an increased need for workers in both sustainability, and research and development. "From 1970 to today, there are so many more dairy products driving the marketplace," said Urban.

Urban has more than 20 years of experience in the consumer packaged goods (CPG) food and beverage industry. Most recently, he was vice president of the Global Growth Office at Kraft Heinz, where he ran a start-up with Oprah Winfrey, developed a global outbound licensing business, advanced a global sustainability strategy for condiments, and implemented a global program to accelerate creative excellence for 400+ marketers. Prior to that role, Urban spent 10 years in the refrigerated business unit, where he ran brands like Lunchables, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Velveeta and Kraft Natural Cheese.



▲ L -R: Malcom Ellis '26, Christopher Urban, Dr. Broc Sandelin

Advancing Innovation and Technology for DelVal Students



Amy Tait has been a generous supporter of Delaware Valley University for several years making contributions to The DelVal Fund, supporting student scholarships and serving as a member of the Board of Trustees since spring 2024 after a highly successful career in commercial real estate.

With a degree in civil engineering from Princeton University and an MBA from the University of Rochester's Simon Business School, it is not surprising that Tait has a keen interest in emerging technologies, particularly those that will impact careers of the future. She previously invested in Freight Farms providing our agriculture students an opportunity to learn the innovative technology that facilitates year-round,

vertical hydroponic growing right on our campus. More recently, Tait and her husband, Michael Travis, donated to a fund to purchase humanoid robots for DelVal.

"We are thrilled to build upon our support for DelVal's Freight Farms with a humanoid robotics fund," shared Tait. "While these technologies will undoubtedly transform agriculture, these investments are truly about giving all students the hands-on experience with vital AI and robotic literacy they need to succeed in our rapidly evolving world."

JOIN US FOR THE REUNION OF THE DECADES

AT TERRAIN GARDENS
ON OCTOBER 23, 2026



Classes of **1986**, **1996**, **2006** and **2016**, we're planning something new for Homecoming Weekend!



Interested in attending or want updates?

Scan the QR code or visit: delval.edu/reunionofthedecades



◀ *Class of 1976, something special is planned for you, so watch your mailbox and inbox for details!*

We can't wait to welcome you back to DelVal!

*Questions? Contact Rachel Mauer, Senior Director of Engagement,
at rachelmauer@delval.edu*



▲ 1986



▲ 1996



▲ 2016



▲ 2006

Your Connection to DelVal is Lifelong

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1970s

Betsy Claypoole Squires, VMD '76

recently sold her veterinary practice and is rehabbing from a total knee replacement. She looks forward to volunteering at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary this summer and to seeing her many friends from the Class of 1976 at Homecoming for their 50th reunion!



1980s

Edward Wengryn '86

was reappointed as New Jersey's secretary of the Department of Agriculture in January.



1990s

Michelle Infante-Casella '93

was named Woman of the Year by New Jersey Farm Bureau. Casella has been an adjunct professor at DelVal for the past six years in the agribusiness department.



Dr. Matthew Cheeseman '95

was appointed as the new superintendent of Craven County School District in New Bern, Nc.



WARREN THOMAS '72

Warren Thomas '72, owner of Baytree Farm in Elmenton, Pa. was named Venango County Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Citizen of the Year. Baytree Farm is a 180-acre sheep farm known for its quality lambs and annual Farm Fall Festival.



Thomas started at DelVal as a dairy science major and from the moment he stepped on campus, he couldn't get enough. At the time, DelVal required all new students to take proficiency tests to assess their skills in basic farm operations. Thomas failed every single one and therefore was required to work on the campus farms for the entire month of June following his freshman year. Thomas is grateful, though, and credits this with laying the foundation for the remainder of his education.

"I didn't know anything," said Thomas. "DelVal helped me know."

Today, Thomas knows much more than he did back then. His passions and dedication have established Thomas as

a trusted resource in the agriculture community. He serves as the chair of the Bridge Builder Community Foundations, a board member of the Oil Region Alliance and the Venango County Land Bank, and a member of the Venango County Tax Assessment Board and the McElhattan Challenge Advisory Board. Thomas also established the Community Garden Fund at the Community Foundation and remains an active supporter of Farm Bureau.

"I am fortunate and passionate to be a farmer," said Thomas, "but I also feel responsible to share because people can be so disconnected from farming. I'm just happy to be involved in anything to educate the community."



CLASS NOTES

2010s

Darla Romberger '12 married Travis DeShong on January 10, 2026. Romberger also graduated from Iowa State University in May with her Ph.D. in Agricultural Education.



Brittany Conover '14 was featured by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in February as part of their International Year of the Woman Farmer.



Annemarie Ely '19 was promoted to associate director at Zer0 to Five, an integrated marketing and communications agency. Ely and her PR team won the 2025 Pepperpot award in the Media Relations – For Profit category.



Colton Lesh '19 recently earned a position as golf course superintendent at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club.



FROM DELVAL TO INDUSTRY LEADERS: TWO ALUMNI NAMED TO GPN 40 UNDER 40

Greenhouse Product News (gpn) named two DelVal alums to its 40 Under 40 Class of 2026. The list recognizes leaders in the horticulture industry who have made meaningful contributions across all areas of the industry.



▲ **Claire Zuidervliet '17** – Owner & Grower, Octoraro Native Plant Nursery



▲ **Garret Vaisman '13** – Young Plants Head Grower, Lucas Greenhouses

2020s

Kathryn Vasquez '20 matched into an ophthalmology residency at Purdue University to continue her specialty training. The accomplishment comes after she earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Sydney in January 2025 and completed a small animal rotating internship at Purdue University.



Jason Rushmer '21 was appointed as the new superintendent for Northwest Area School District in Luzerne County this past March.



Natalie Ratzke '22 became the first environmental education coordinator at Orlando Science Center. Ratzke creates the programming and manages a team in the Life animal exhibit.



Andrew Doster '23 was appointed as the new human resources director for Pennridge School District this past January.



Owen Penczak '25 works as an environmental educator at Raritan Headwaters and volunteered this past April with the Annual Stream Cleanup working as a coordinator with local businesses to analyze clean-up sites.



LIFETIME OF FRIENDSHIP – MEMORIES FROM THE 1970'S



◀ Remaining friends for almost 60 years and now retired, this group of five Aggies have stayed friends for over 50 years. **Dave Hagberg '71**, **John Echternach '71**, **Rick Woolley '73**, **Alan Weisberg '77** and **Chuck Gale '71** (seated) met at DelVal and reunite each summer in Doylestown to visit campus, reconnect and relive cherished memories.



DELVAL IS SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Did you meet your significant other while attending DelVal?

We'd love to hear your campus sweethearts story! Share how you met, your favorite campus memories and where life has taken you since graduation with us at delval.edu/classnotes. Don't forget to include a few photos!

In Memoriam

Arthur "Jim" L. Binger, Jr. '58
Alvin "Merk" M. Walker, Jr. '58
John O. Anderson, Jr. '61
John "Jack" C. Kuyper '61
Joseph "Pat" P. Muhlfrid '61
Charles "Charlie" E. Radle, Sr. '61
Richard "Rich" P. Sheidy '61
Albert "Al" Abrevaya '62
Michael "Mike" Kopas, Jr. '62
Warren Goll '64

David "Dave" L. Heebner '64
Elwood "Woody" W. Bowman '65
H. Dennis "Denny" Smith '65
Robert "Bob" J. McGovern '66
Alan W. Shimp '67
Jon L. Slate '67
John H. Flemer '68
Gregory "Greg" J. Rich '68
Rev. Jonathan "Jon" W. Kline, Sr. '69
William "Bill" R. Hunsberger, Jr. '73

Ivan J. Witmer '73
David L. Babcock '74
Ray A. Yourgalite '74
Dr. Dianne H. (Rodgers) Hellwig '76
Norman "Norm" Schorr '76
James "Jim" E. Thorpe '76
Thomas A. Powers '78
John R. Wall, Sr. '80
Richard "Rich" H. Kadwill, Jr. '81
James "Jim" A. Abma, Sr. '85

Theodore "Ted" D. Borz '85
Joseph "Joe" M. Risi, Jr. '85
Lisa O. (Roerig) Lindsay '87
Richard "Rich" E. Shaddinger '88
Terry Berryman '89
Signe B. Hanson '91
Michael "Mike" F. Santillo '91
Christina A. (Bednarz) Dymek '00
Dr. David W. Erikson '00
Debra A. Duna '05, MBA '07

Nicole M. Fluck '05
Michael "Mike" J. Hesington, M.S. '05
Michael J. Fitzpatrick '10
Tyler D. Coleman '16

DelVal Faculty and Staff
Dr. Theodore "Ted" Christie, Jr.
Janice "Jan" L. (Lugar) Haws '81



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Homecoming
October 23-24

delval.edu/homecoming-2026